reach to the consumers of most backward villages in the country particularly in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) With effect from 1st June, 1992, the Central Government has been issuing foodgrains meant for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) in about 1752 Blocks identified for coverage under the Revamped PDS (RPDS) at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50 per quintal lower than the normal Central Issue Prices (CIP) for such foodgrains. These Blocks are covered by various area specific programmes such as the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) and Designated Hill Areas (DHA).

(c) In Bihar 156 Blocks are covered under the RPDS. Population living in the villages in the RPDS areas is entitled to receive PDS foodgrains at the specially subsidised prices. Details of the villages in these Blocks are not maintained by the Central Government.

(d) The operational responsibility for actual implementation of the PDS/RPDS is that of the State Governments. The Food Corporation of India issues foodgrains at the specially subsidised prices to State Governments and their agencies on the basis of valid certification obtained from the District Collectors concerned. State Govts. have been requested to set up Fair Price Shop (FPS) level Vigilance Committees of the beneficiaries to ensure people's involvement in the supervision of the distribution of PDS commodities. The Government of Bihar has reported that Vigilance Committees at the FPS level have been set up in the areas covered under RPDS. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments to improve the delivery system in the RPDS areas, Central Government provides financial assistance for purchase of vans and construction of godowns. Since 1991-92, the Government of Bihar has been provided Rs. 40.00 lakhs for purchase of 10 vans and Rs. 83.04 lakhs for construction of godowns with a total capacity of 7000 tonnes under these Schemes.

Unsold quantity of imported Palm Oil

4255. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of Palm Oil imported from Malaysia last year is lying unsold in the warehouses ;

(b) if so, what is the unsold quantity of palm oil, the cost involved in foreign exchange and quantity of palm oil which has been spoiled ;

(c) what are the reasons for the palm oil stock remaining unsold ; and

(d) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to be disposed of to minimise the loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Out of the total imported oil of about 42,000 M.Ts. at a price of Rs. 50.88 crores from Malaysia nearly 22,000 M.Ts. has already been lifted by various States and U.Ts. and the balance quantity is available at various centres in 15 kg. tins and a very small quantity in bulk. This is in the process of being lifted by the State/U.Ts. No quantity of palmolein has been reported to have been spoiled.

(c) and (d) The palmolein could not be sold in full quantity as the States/U.Ts. to whom the allocations were made, did not lift the same due to easy availability of indigenous oil at reasonable prices. Lack of demand by the consumers was also one the reasons. Among the measures taken by the Government to step up the sale of palmolein to States, include flexibility in mode of allocation to States as per their requirement in terms of loose (bulk), 15 kg. tins, 1 kg. pouches, revalidation of earlier allocated oil for further months, one month credit facility by STC to States and U.Ts. and to increase the shelf life

of the oil the tinning in 15 kg. tins has been taken up. State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been specially requested to expedite the lifting of palmolein.

Fair Price Shops in the country

4256. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present total number of Fair Price Shops in the country as on 31st March, 1994, State-wise ; and

(b) what percentage of total population of the country is covered by these shops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Details showing the number of Fair Price Shops and the percentage of population covered by Public Distribution System (PDS), as per reports received from States/Union Territories are given in the enclosed statement. The latest information available pertains to 1-1-1993.

Statement

Details regarding number of Fair Price Shops and the percentage of the population covered by P D S

Sl. No.	State/UTs.	Total No. of PDS outlets as on 1-1-93	Percentage of population covered by PDS system
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37521	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	738	89.6
3.	Assam	27259	100
4.	Bihar	45191	100
5.	Goa	572	100
6.	Gujarat	12018	100
7.	Haryana	7414	100
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3386	100
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2652	79.76
10.	Karnataka	18479	100
11.	Kerala	13157	96.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22117	100
13.	Maharashtra	39341	100
14.	Manipur	1828	100
15.	Meghalaya	3643	100
16.	Mizoram	904	100
17.	Nagaland	225	1.47
18.	Orissa	22004	90.1
19.	Punjab	10902	100
20.	Rajasthan	15962	100
21.	Sikkim	N.A.	N.A.
22.	Tamil Nadu	21985	100
23.	Tripura	1290	100
24.	Uttar Pradesh	73766	100
25.	West Bengal	20277	100
26.	A & N Islands	351	100
27.	Chandigarh.	316	100
28.	D & N Haveli	63	92.75
29.	Daman & Diu	57	100
30.	Delhi	3560	100
31.	Lakshadweep	32	100
32.	Pondicherry	3058	100

Supply of foodgrains into tribal areas

4257. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of foodgrains under the PDS are not reaching the remote tribal areas of the country ;

(b) what steps are being taken to see that proper supply of foodgrains are made to the tribal areas ; and

(c) whether every tribal family in the country is getting at least 20 kg. of foodgrains as decided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Central Government has not received any report regarding foodgrains not being supplied to remote, far-flung, tribal areas in any State/Union Territory. Central Government makes bulk allocations to States/UTs for distribution through the Public Distribution System. Operational matters including lifting of foodgrains, transportation arrangements, distribution of foodgrains etc. are matters that fall under the